

MEDIA STATEMENT

8 October, 2019

Please attribute to a spokesperson for The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

Juvenile arthritis is a complex disorder in children managed by specialised services in partnership with other clinical specialists and primary care services such as General Practice.

The Agency for Clinical Innovation develops various models of care to assist Local Health Districts and Specialty Networks in ongoing planning of clinical services for their populations. These are not NSW Health mandated policies.

The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network has implemented a number of initiatives to improve the diagnosis, education and treatment of children with juvenile arthritis. These include:

- Additional resources have been developed to support patients and families closer to home
- After-hours care has been extended, with a paediatric rheumatologist available out of hours.
- Health pathways have been developed for juvenile arthritis which assist general practitioners diagnose and manage children and young people who present with symptoms. It also provides contact details of paediatric rheumatologists who can be consulted or patients referred to.

NSW Health is also represented on the National Strategic Action Plan for Arthritis which includes strategies to improve the care of children with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis that affects roughly three in 1000 children.

The Paediatric Rheumatology Network website (www.prn.org.au) is a also good resource for patients, families and the community about rheumatologic diseases, treatment and resources.

The NSW Government is investing \$2.8 billion in a record workforce boost of 8300 extra frontline hospital staff, including 5000 nurses and midwives, with 45 per cent of those for regional and rural areas.

The NSW Government is investing a record \$26.7 billion to improve health services and infrastructure across the State, supporting families and boosting jobs in regional and rural communities.